

(a) whether the Government have asked the Reserve Bank of India to waive interest on Government borrowings from the RBI;

(b) if so, the total amount of interest accrued on Government borrowings from RBI as on December 31, 1991;

(c) the reasons for asking waiver of the interest obligations by the Government; and

(d) the reaction of the RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SNAN-TARAM POTDUKHE): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

CESS Collection From Pepper

2891. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of CESS on pepper collected during the last two years and during 1991-92 so far;

(b) how the amount has been utilised and proposed to be utilised;

(c) whether the Government propose to utilise the amount on the welfare of cardaam planters; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). Any amount collected by way of cess on export of spices including pepper is credited to the Consoli-

dated Fund of India, from which funds are released to the Spices Board for carrying on export promotion measures for all spices and for the development for cardamom in the country. Under the provisions of the Spices Board Act, 1986 (No. 10 of 1986), the Board has been given the responsibility of development, both production and export, of cardamom. The amount realised from export cess on black pepper is indicated below:-

1989-90	Rs. 0.75 crores
1990-91	Rs. 0.65 crores
1991-92	Rs. 0.40 crores

Allocation of Fund to Maharashtra from Workers Rehabilitation Fund

2892. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total fund allocated to Workers Rehabilitation fund by the Government;

(b) the amount allocated out of the Fund to the Textile Mills, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the amount actually disbursed to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). The total fund allocated to workers under Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme is Rs. 40.00 crores (R.E.) during 1991-92, which are placed at the disposal of the Textile Commissioner, Bombay who disburses the amount to the eligible mills/workers.

(c) A Statement is attached.